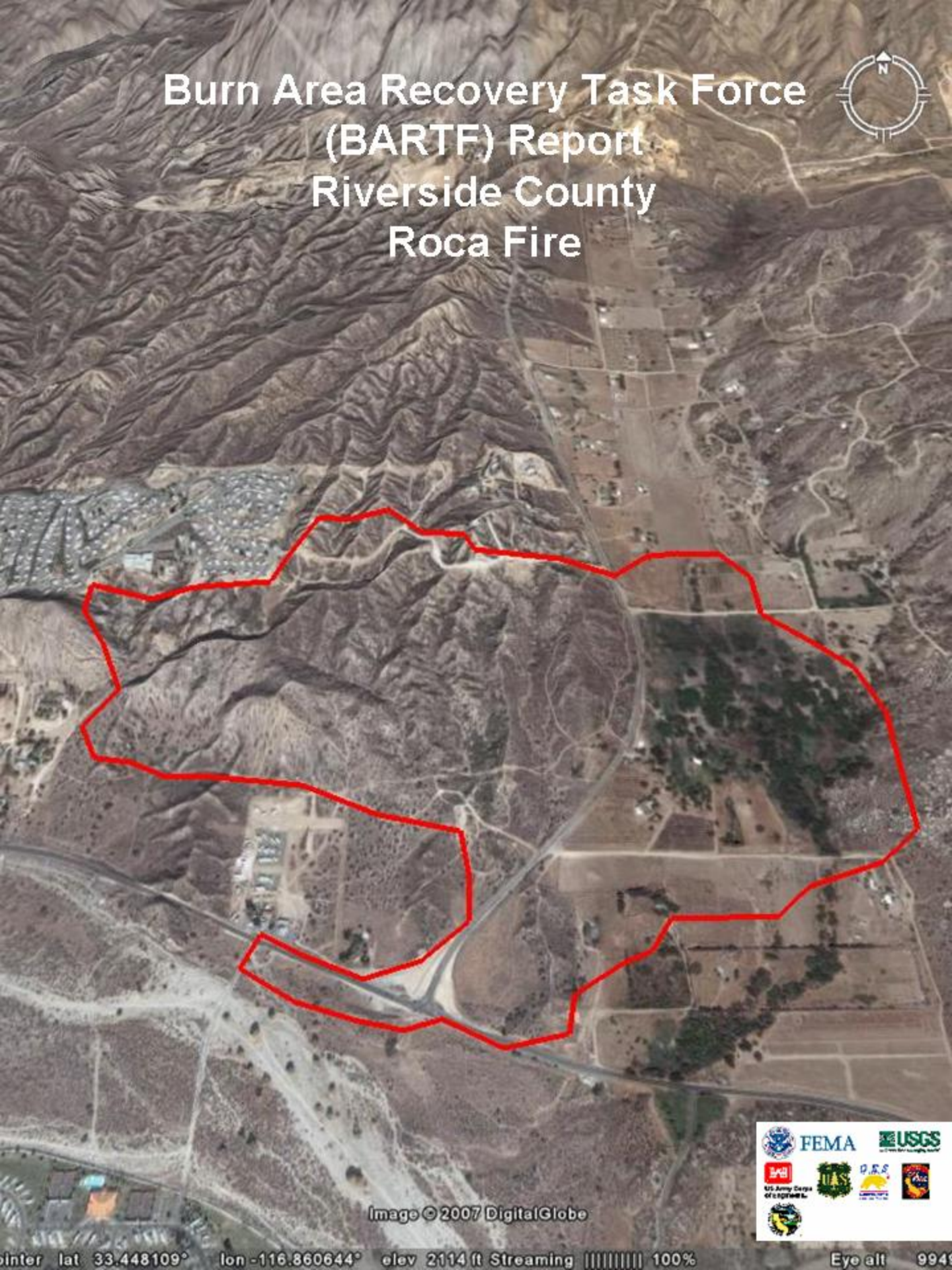
# Burn Area Recovery Task Force (BARTF) Report
# Riverside County
# Roca Fire



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## Executive Summary

The Roca Fire burned 270 acres adjacent and due north of the intersection of Highway 79 and Highway 371, approximately 18 miles east of the city of Temecula, Riverside County, California. The fire burn severity within the Roca Fire was moderate. The fire was contained to a rural area with few homes, as well as, what appears to be a whole-sale nursery. The native landscape consisted of sparse chaparral with much of the eastern portion of the burn supporting sparsely covered rocky hillsides.

Values at risk identified within the fire perimeter are minimal. Soil deposited in the drainage could block the channel downstream and cause flooding to one home located immediately adjacent to the drainage.

Potential protective measures included the cleaning out of culverts and removal of debris from stream and floodplain at the confluence of Tule Creek and SR 79 at Temecula Creek.

## Purpose

This BARTF report briefly identifies proposed emergency protective measures associated with the Roca Fire. The Roca Fire is one of numerous Southern California wildfires included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-1731-CA. The purpose of this report is to address post-fire flooding, erosion, and debris flow hazards within and downstream of the fire perimeter. This report will also identify gaps in funding, potential funding sources for all projects, and potential conflicts that may slow or interfere with the proposed emergency protective measures.

Information has been derived from the State's Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) report, the USDA-Forest Service Burned-Area Report, Post-Fire Hazard Awareness Maps, local government requests for public assistance, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding lists.

## Introduction

The Roca Fire burned approximately 270 acres within Riverside County, 18 miles east of the city of Temecula. The fire occurred on private land. The Roca Fire was completely contained within one watershed identified as the Temecula Creek/Long Canyon and Tule Creek Watershed. Watersheds were identified using the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-6) classification within the fire perimeter. Within the Roca Fire, only minimal threats to

property were identified. Risks to property could result from inadequate or clogged culverts.

Environmental permits may be required for many of the proposed projects identified in the BARTF report and the BARTF project matrix. Many of these proposed projects can be completed under emergency conditions or under the waiver process identified in State Executive Order (S-13-07). Projects that do not fall under these classifications would need to follow the regular permit process (see Environmental Permitting Requirements Appendix).

This report summarizes the major issues identified by the BAER reports in addition to issues identified from other sources. The report is organized by HUC-6 watersheds. Threats to life, safety, and infrastructure will be discussed under each HUC-6 watershed identified within the fire perimeter and areas covered in the Post-Fire Hazard Recovery Awareness Maps. Proposed emergency protective measures identified will be evaluated along with any issues that may impede the progress of these measures. Potential funding sources will be discussed and gaps in funding will be identified.

For any cultural resource concerns refer to the Archaeological Appendix.

## *Temecula Creek/Long Canyon and Tule Creek*

### Background

Values at risk in the Temecula Creek/Long Canyon and Tule Creek Watershed are minimal. Soil deposited in the drainage could block the channel downstream and cause flooding to one home located immediately adjacent to the drainage. There is a fence across the drainage to the east of the home that is contributing to the problem.

### Analysis

- There is minimal potential for serious risk to life or property as a result of the fire
- Maintenance within culverts and drainages are recommended to prevent flooding
- Sensitive species that has the potential to be impacted during post-fire remediation projects include: arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*), Southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata pallida*), Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*), and Least bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)

### Potential Emergency Protective Measures

- Clean culverts and remove debris from stream and floodplain at the confluence of Tule Creek and SR 79 at Temecula Creek.
- Surveys for arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) should occur within areas of suitable habitat prior to ground disturbance activities within Silverado and Santiago Creek.

- Notification to wetland permitting agencies for in-stream work should occur prior to conducting emergency and exigent work in all water courses.

**Table 1 – Possible Funding Sources**

| Yes | No | Funding Sources |
|---|---|---|
| X | | FEMA/OES Public Assistance Emergency Work (Cat A & B) |
| | X | FEMA/OES Public Assistance Permanent Work (Cat C-G) |
| | | Federal Highway Administration |
| | X | 406 Hazard Mitigation |
| | X | 404 Hazard Mitigation |
| X | | Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) |
| | X | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service |
| X | | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| | X | National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) |
| X | | California Disaster Assistance Act |
| | X | Other funding |

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Environmental Permitting Requirements
Appendix B – Archaeological
Appendix C – Descriptions of State and Federal Program Funding
Appendix E – Preliminary Suggested Projects